IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1: Field of the invention;

line 6: DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART.

Page 2, line 11: SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Page 5, between lines 31 and 32, insert:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1a and 1b are graphs of pore distributions for the prior art and an example of the invention; and

Figure 2 is a graph of filtration efficiency versus residence time for filters according to the prior art and an example of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 10, above line 1: What is claimed is:

Please enter the following amended claims as set forth below and in the attached Appendix:

1. (Amended) A filtration method for liquid metal comprising passing said liquid metal on a bed of refractory particulate material having an open porosity between 5 and 30%.

2. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid metal has a residence time in the

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particulate material bed greater than 1 sec and less than 500 secs.

3. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the porosity substantially stems from pores with a diameter greater than 10 μm.

4. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the material has a particle size between 0.2 and 20 mm and the bed has a thickness between 4 and 40 cm.

5. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the material is electrofused corundum.

6. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid metal is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, magnesium and alloys thereof.

7. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 5, wherein the corundum is obtained by method steps comprising electrofusion of alumina, a casting, a cooling and solidification in order to obtain said porosity, a crushing, then a screening process.

8. (Amended) A corundum used in the method according to claim 5, having a porosity between 5 and 30%.

9. (Amended) A filtration device for liquid metal including the corundum according to claim 8.

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--11. (New) The filtration method according to claim 3, wherein the porosity substantially stems from pores with a diameter between 10 and 200 μm.--

A3

Please cancel Claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

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